

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 SS-20 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6341

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASAHS PARIS

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PINT SG

SUBJ: IMPLICATIONS OF RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

ABIDJAN FOR AMB AGGREY

PASS USIA FOR IBS

REF: DAKAR 1614, 1617

1. IN WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE MINFO DAOUDA SOW RESPONDED TO JOURNALISTS QUESTIONS ON IMPLICATIONS OF RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2. ASKED IF CERTAIN OF RELEASED DETAINEES WOULD BE ABLE RESUME AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SENEGAL'S AFFAIRS, SOW REPLIED "THE FUTURE WILL TELL US". SOW WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT CREDIBILITY OF RUMORS NOW CIRCULATING, IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT PREVIOUS RUMORS ON RELEASE OF DETAINEES HAD PROVED TRUE. QUESTION FOLLOWED OTHERS CONCERNING POSSIBLE FORMATION OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE. SOW SAID

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THAT THERE ALWAYS KERNEL OF TRUTH TO SUCH RUMORS, BUT

FACTS MUST NOT BE EXAGGERATED NOR INTERPRETED
FALSELY.

3. ANOTHER JOURNALIST INQUIRED WHETHER POLITICAL EXILES,
NOTABLY EXILED PAI LEADER MAHJEMOUT DIOP WOULD BE PERMITTED
RETURN SENEGAL. SOW REPLIED CRYPTICALLY THAT IF MAHJEMOUT
WISHED RETURN HE WOULD "HAVE TO FULFILL CERTAIN FORMALITIES".

4. COMMENT: PRESS CONFERENCE ONLY CONFIRMS OUR PREVIOUS
CONVICTION THAT FURTHER POLITICAL CHANGE IN STORE. WITH
REGARD MAHJEMOQQ DIOP, FORMER HEAD OF OUTLAWED PAI, WHO FLED
SENEGAL IN 1960 AND WHO NOW LIVES IN BAMAKO WHERE HE WAS
SUBJECT
LENGTHY DECRAENE INTERVIEW IN LE MONDE OF QUAQI
FEBRUARY, IT POSSIBLE SENGHOR WOULD ALLOW HIS RETURN BUT IT
VERY DOUBTFUL
HE WOULD ALLOW HIM OR OTHER AVOWED MARXISTS
ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY
RECONCILIATION COMMISSION WITHOUT GIVING SOME INDICATION
MODIFICATION FORMER RADICAL VIEWS.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO MIGHT COME TO ATTENTION PARIS
OR BAMAKO RE ATTITUDE FRENCH LEFT OR SENEGALESE EXILES TO
LATEST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SENEGAL.
PERKINS

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